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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : ALLMANDINGER et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/695,958  
Filed : October 30, 2003  
Title : ADJUSTABLE FLANGE DEVICE FOR COVER MEMBER IN  
DRIVE AXLE ASSEMBLY  
Group Art Unit : unknown  
Examiner : unknown  
Docket No. : 08200.623

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January 28, 2004

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examining the merits of the subject application, please preliminary amend the subject application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.

The PTO did not receive the following  
listed item(s) PAGE 2 OF PRELIMINARY

AMENDMENT